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**SECTION FRANÇAISE**

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**Paris le 22 février 2010**



## **FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TURKEY AND IN NORTH KURDISTAN**

Today, more than 5,000 political prisoners are detained in Turkish prisons, some since 1990, 2000 miners, about the age of 18 are currently detained in Turkish prisons and more than 3,000 are left at liberty, are waiting to be tried in court.

Since April 14, 2009, approximately 900 executives and elected DTP / BOP were incarcerated (mayors, municipal councilors, ex-mayors, members of the Council of Women and Youth Council, presidents of 'Associations of Human Rights, the Vice Presidents / DTP / BDP, trade unionists, mayors and so personal

It has been carried out any release of mayors or former mayors, all of whom are still in custody on the grounds that the indictment is not ready yet "

We will soon be able to publish the full report of the Turkish Association of Human Rights (IHD affiliated to the FIDH) on human rights violations in Turkey for 2009.

The Association of Human Rights in Turkey (IHD), the health status of 42 political prisoners in Turkish prisons is very serious. 12 of them suffering from cancer, 4 had a very severe paralysis, 3 suffer from the disease Wernicke Korsakoff and 23 others suffering from various illnesses. Since they do not receive adequate care in prisons, their health is deteriorating day by day.

The International Press Institute (IPI) has expressed concern Monday about the fate of a Kurdish journalist threatened with 525 years' imprisonment at a trial in Turkey. Vedat Kursun, former head of the Kurdish daily Azadiya Welat, was charged with having "glorified crimes and criminals" and "helped the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) to make propaganda" in his articles.

Heard Friday after 13 months of detention, Mr. Kursun in prison awaiting the deliberations of the court in Diyarbakir. The prosecution has claimed 525 years of prison. Le successor to Mr. Kursun at the head of the drafting Azadiya Welat was sentenced February 12 to 21 years in prison for the same reasons, says IPI.

"This is not the first time the authorities are using anti-terrorism laws to stifle press freedom and freedom of expression in Turkey," lamented David Dadge, IPI Director, quoted in a statement.

*Statement of the International Initiative "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan – Peace in Kurdistan" on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Abdullah Öcalan's abduction that we publish.*

### **"Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan - Peace in Kurdistan"**

Hollywood could not have written a better script. A sensational hunt, secret service intrigues, politicians without morality, conspiracy, breach of international law, treason, hypocrisy, wartime profiteers, threat of war, lucrative deals and stock exchange profits – all this featured in the illegal abduction of Abdullah Öcalan which took place on 15th February 1999 in Nairobi.

The abduction of the Kurdish leader was the preliminary peak of an intrigue which, following the USA's version of a "democratic Middle East" in which there was no room for the Kurdish effort for emancipation, lead to a blatant breach of international law.

This was preceded by a weeks-long odyssey between Damascus, Moscow, Athens, Rome and Amsterdam, which ended on 15th February 1999 with a criminal act of piracy – with significant involvement of the CIA, MIT and Mossad and with the support of Russia, Greece and other European states.

Öcalan had come to Europe to promote a political solution to the bloody Turkish-Kurdish conflict, knowing that it is not solvable with military means. The initial hopes that the deadlock in the situation could be overcome, that leading European states might take the initiative for the solution of the Kurdish issue, were quickly dashed. Under pressure from the USA the doors closed one by one; no country pronounced itself willing to accept the Kurdish leader. As has happened so often, the Kurds were sacrificed for the economic and geostrategic interests of the west.

Despite all this the Kurds continue to insist on their political and cultural rights, resisting all efforts to silence them. Turkey on the other hand is still betting on a military solution, in the slipstream of reforms on paper which don't deserve this name. The dying goes on. Lives are lost amongst the Turkish soldiers and the Kurdish guerrillas even today. The human rights situation in Turkey continues to be tense.

It is owed to Abdullah Öcalan that his abduction did not become the prelude to an ethnicisation of the Turkish-Kurdish conflict. Instead of triggering an escalation, he intensified his peace efforts. He called the Kurdish rebels to unilaterally end the war. At the same time he combined this with the demand for the recognition of cultural and linguistic rights for the Kurds, which seemed achievable in the framework of a democratisation of Turkey. With the pull-out of the Kurdish guerrilla units from Turkish territory the situation relaxed. But the government and the military let this opportunity for peace expire unused.

Today Kurdish rebel formations and Turkish military are once again face to face in the Kurdish regions of Turkey. A fragile cease-fire and the harsh winter are preventing an escalation of the smouldering conflict. However, the climate of Turkey's domestic politics gives rise to the fear that with the snow melting the weapons will talk again.

The ban of the pro-Kurdish party DTP and the arrest of thousands of members and operatives also of the successor party BDP have created an atmosphere in which the political articulation of their concerns have become close to impossible. While the Erdogan government talks about democratic reforms, it has elected representatives of the people arrested, mayors removed from office and even children sentenced to long prison terms. Even though the

AKP is in conflict with the army command and the nationalistic opposition, regarding the Kurdish question they are in agreement. They are passing laws which are the basis for the persecution of Kurdish politicians and activists. They are doing everything to guarantee their retention of power. One swallow doesn't make a summer and limited concessions do not solve the Kurdish question.

Such a solution is only possible through dialogue and for that, reference contacts are needed. With autocratic-style representative politics, such as that conducted by the AKP government, which denies all contacts, will just harden a situation which is already bogged down. The Kurdish question can only be resolved with the Kurds, not against them. The leaders in Ankara know this only too well, even as they feverishly try to create contacts who are agreeable to their interests. Even the apartheid regime in South Africa had to recognise the fact that it couldn't bypass the legitimate representatives of the opposition. Freeing Mandela was only the final stage of a long process. It won't be different in Öcalan's case.

Even after eleven years Öcalan's position in Kurdish society hasn't changed. It was he who realised that the Kurdish question could only be solved within the framework of Turkey's democratisation. We have him to thank if the momentum of armed conflict hasn't prevailed over politics. With constructive theses and proposals he understood how to guide the Kurdish liberation movement towards the realistic perspective for a solution.

The politics of the feasible require moderate contact persons. Öcalan is such a contact person. He has shown that he is capable of far-reaching flexibility without losing track of the goal. A possible peace process needs actors with vision, without them deadlocked positions cannot be overcome. Öcalan is the visionary that the peace process in Turkey needs. Direct dialogue with the Kurdish leader is, sooner or later, inescapable. Therefore courage and constancy are necessary, also in Turkey.

A first step would be the lifting of the solitary confinement that the Kurdish leader has been kept under for eleven years on the prison island of Imrali and the transfer of Öcalan to some sort of "house arrest" where he is allowed to correspond with all the actors of the conflict. Only then can Abdullah Öcalan fulfil the role that he is able to play: as one of the architects of a peaceful solution of the conflict and a common perspective of Turks and Kurds. The International Initiative shares this goal, this is what we strive for. First signatories of the International Initiative:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **Máiréad Maguire** (Nobel Prize Award, Northern Ireland), **Dario Fo** (Director, Writer, Actor, Nobel Literature Prize Award, Italy), **Adolfo Pérez Esquivel** (Nobel Literature Prize Award, Argentine), **Jose Ramos-Horta** (Peace Nobel Prize Award, East-Timor), **José Saramago** (Nobel Literature Prize Award, Portugal), **Danielle**

We believe that since "last July, the Turkish government announced its intention to initiate a process of resolving the Kurdish question, which for decades mortgage changes in domestic and foreign policy of Turkey. First called "the opening Kurdish" and "democratic opening" to include consideration of other religious minorities (Alevi) and the country's ethnic, this initiative raises hopes among some, while encountering strong opposition from the powerful nationalist Turkish forces, including the military. This in a context where agitated for the first time in Turkish history, the retired generals are tried for their involvement in preparations for military coups, in collaboration with an extensive criminal network Turkish called Ergenekon, made up of militants from the extreme right, officers of the army and gendarmerie but also academics and journalists gathered in a kind of Gladio in Turkey. "Now," opening Kurdish "and" democratic opening "was not a government action to find a democratic solution, for it was aimed directly against the liquidation of the National Liberation Movement and the armed resistance Kurdistan. Therefore, "the arrest of forty-eight soldiers, February 22, 2010 from ex-chiefs

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**Mitterrand** (President, Donation France Liberté, France), **Ramsey Clark** (Lawyer, former Attorney General, USA), **Uri Avnery** (Former Member of Knesset, Gush Shalom (Peace Bloc), Israel), **Prof. Dr. Noam Chomsky** (Linguist, Writer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA), **Alain Lipietz** (Member of the European Parliament, France), **Pedro Marset Carpos** (Member of the European Parliament, Spain), **Mrs. Jean Lambert** (Member of the European Parliament, GB), **Lord Avebury** (Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group, House of Lords, GB), **Harry Cohen** (Member of Parliament, Labour Party, GB), **Cynog Dafis** (Member of Parliament, Plaid Cymru, GB), **Lord Raymond Hylton** (House of Lords, GB), **Lord Rea** (House of Lords, Great Britain), **Walid Jumblat** (President, Socialist Progressive Party, Lebanon), **Rudi Vis** (Member of Parliament, Labour Party, GB), **Paul Flynn** (Member of Parliament, Labour Party, Great Britain), **Máiréad Keane** (Director, International Department, Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland), **Domenico Gallo** (Lawyer, former senator (CI), member of Magistratura Democratica, Italy), **Livio Pepino** (Lawyer, President of Magistratura Democratica, Italy), **Xabier Arzalluz** (President, PNV (Basque Nationalist Party), **Tony Benn** (Member of Parliament, Labour Party, GB), **Giovanni Palombarini** (Lawyer, former president of Magistratura Democratica, Italy), **Heidi Ambrosch** (Vice-president and Women Speaker, Communist Party of Austria), **Mag. Walter Baier** (President, Communist Party of Austria), **Giana Nanini** (Artist, Italy), **Geraldine Chaplin** (Actress, Madrid, Spain), **Dietrich Kittner**, (Humorist, Writer, Cabarettist, Germany), **David MacDowall**, (Writer, GB), **Alice Walker**, (Writer, USA), **Franca Rame**, (Actress, Director, Writer, Italy), **Prof. Dr. Jean Ziegler** (Member of the Swiss National Council, Publisher, Switzerland), **Dr. Diether Dehm** (Vice President, PDS, Germany), **Prof. Angela Davis** (University of California, Santa Cruz, USA), **Prof. Dr. Luigi Ferraioli** (Philosophy and Law Professor, Italy), **Prof. Dr. Uwe Jens Heuer** (Law Professor, Berlin, Germany), **Prof. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Narr** (Committee for Fundamental Rights and Democracy, Germany), **Prof. Dr. Werner Ruf** (International Law Professor, Kassel University, Germany), **Prof. Dr. Norman Paech** (International Law Professor, Hamburg School of Economy and Politics, Germany), **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Stuby** (International Law Professor, Bremen University, Germany), **Prof. Dr. h.c. Ronald Mönch** (Chair of Bremen Highschool, Germany), **Prof. Dr. Elmar Altvater** (President, International Lelio Basso Donation for the rights of the peoples, Germany), **Prof. Dr. Helmut Dahmer** (Sociology Professor, Darmstadt Technical University, Germany), **Prof. Jürgen Waller** (Chair of School of Arts, Bremen, Germany), **Christine Blower** (Former President, National Union of Teachers (NUT), Great Britain), **Ken Cameron** (General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union (FBU), GB), **Josep Lluís Carod Rouira** (President ERC, Barcelona, Spain), **Michael Feeny** (Adviser of Cardinal Hume in refugee affairs, GB), **Gareth Peirce** (Lawyer, Great Britain Frances Webber, Barrister, GB), **Norbert Mattes** (Information Project Near und Middle East, Germany), **Yayla Mönch-Buçak** (Oldenburg University, Germany), **Dr. Mamoud Osman** (Kurdish Politician, Great Britain), **Jutta Bauer** (Book Illustrator, Germany), **Günther Schwarberg** (Journalist, Germany), **Hans Branscheidt** (medico international / Appell von Hannover), Germany, **Rolf Becker** (Actor, IG Medien (Media Union), Germany)

of the Air Force and Navy, were arrested on Monday in Turkey in a coup historical net against the army in the context of alleged plots to overthrow the Islamic conservative government. Not least 18 retired generals and admirals 4 currently in use, among the soldiers detained in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir (west), according to television. The Chief of Staff, General Ilker Basbug, has postponed a trip to Egypt, told the news agency Anatolie. Le Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, visiting Spain, said that "more than 40 people were arrested, refusing to comment on "a case to court." The former head of the Air Force, General Ibrahim Firtina and Admiral Özden Örnek, former commander of the navy, among arrested. Never personalities in the history of Turkey, there had been a wave of arrests of this magnitude in circles militaires. Les soldiers arrested were taken to Istanbul where they were interrogated by the police with Other suspects arrested. "This is the contradiction between the ruling classes of Turkey and colonialists, these practices do not provide opportunities for Ocalan's release and neither political prisoners that we demand. For "these arrests are part of the investigation to thwart a plan called Balyoz (hammer forging), revealed in January by a liberal newspaper, which had the objective to organize a series of bombings cons of mosques and museums, to encourage the Turks to take to the streets to protest violently .. MM. Örnek Firtina and were heard as suspects in Istanbul in December by attorneys who teach different surveys for conspiracy under the banner of the Ergenekon case, a network that has sought to provoke a coup militaire. Près 200 people from all sides (mafia, lawyers, journalists, academics, military) are considered since 2008 as part of the Ergenekon case, the disclosure of which is regarded by some as a democratic progress in Turkey, but criticized by others as a way for the government to muzzle the secular opposition. "

We must think about the U.S. policy that would increase aid to Turkey against the Kurdish armed resistance. According to AFP "the United States would increase military aid to Ankara to fight against the armed resistance of Northern Kurdistan, that" Turkey operating from northern Iraq, "said Saturday, February 6, 2010 U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. We know that after the visit of Mr. Hüseyin Obama, he has granted Turkey an aid of 86 billion in aid. And in 2007, Washington agreed to provide Turkey "significant capabilities in the areas of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and other equipment" to fight against the rebels of the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK ), Gates said to the press after talks with Turkish leaders. "During my visit here, I proposed to see if there are additional resources to share with Turkey against the threat," he said.

Mr. Gates said General Ray Odierno, leader of U.S. forces in Iraq, had discussed an "action plan" to further aid in this area when he came this week in Ankara. The head of U.S. forces in Iraq, General Ray Odierno, said during a visit to Ankara the commitment of the United States to cooperate with Turkey and Iraq

to fight against the Turkish Kurd rebels holed up in northern Iraq. The rebel Kurdish Workers' Party of Kurdistan (PKK) has been used for many years the mountains of northern Iraq as rear bases for their operations in south-eastern Turkey.

In 2008, Turkey, Iraq and the United States have established a tripartite committee to coordinate the fight against the PKK, considered a terrorist organization by Ankara, Washington and many countries. "In this trilateral framework, the United States is working with the governments of Turkey and Iraq (...) to ensure border security and put an end to PKK terrorism," said General Odierno said in a statement on his arrival Ankara. "It is important to develop a common understanding of the roots of violence so as to help determine the political, economic and security that will contribute to greater security and enhanced security for the peoples of Turkey and Iraq," he said . The officer will meet on Wednesday Chief of General Staff of Turkish Armed, General Ilker Basbug, the Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Interior Minister Besir Atalay. "" I think we are moving towards greater cooperation "on this issue," he added. Thousands of PKK militants use bases in the Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq to launch attacks in Turkey, as part of an armed struggle for 25 years by the rebel movement to assert the rights of Kurdish community in Turkey. "

The truth is the words of Ilker Basbug, Ahmet Davutoglu and Besir Atalay represent the colonialist and imperialist policies of Turkey, which denies the one hand the existence of Kurdistan and his nation on the other hand, they consider that South Kurdistan is an "autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq." But the spirit of the Bandung Conference in 1955, was the conviction that the liberation of peoples from colonial rule is the cause of world peace and social progress. This is an opportunity for us, starting with the hopes raised by this conference, to revive what it meant for all people tired of colonization, as hope for a better world.

We compare the different paths traveled not independent states while bearing in mind that the term independent does not mean sovereignty: this condition is necessary but not sufficient condition for social progress. We present examples of movement of the nominal independence of political autonomy and social development for all 3 continents: Asia, America and Africa. This is an opportunity to show that in general, only countries that have managed to get rid of colonial rule, taken in its broadest sense (the autonomy of colonial powers, international financial institutions, or military elite local economic ...) could have addressed the virtuous spiral of economic development for the service of all citizens. If colonialism is understood as the domination of one people by a power which is foreign, then it is necessary to exceed, make visible the

components of this rule. This is why neo colonial perspectives that are the basis of the Conference of the Kurdish Institute are designed to integrate Turkey into the EU makes a third partition of Kurdistan and a false hope to fill the logic of imperialism and neo colonial "At the same time, the Constitutional Court composed mostly of judges Kemalist nationalists, who had narrowly failed to ban the ruling AKP party, recently banned the main pro-Kurdish party DTP supposed to be the partner's legal Kurdish "democratic opening". The two co-chairmen of the party were stripped of their parliamentary mandate while a score of Kurdish mayors directly elected, with scores ranging from 60 to 70% of the votes were arrested, handcuffed and thrown in jail. In this climate of tension and confusion that the city of Istanbul has become the European Capital of Culture in 2010, while 15 to 18 million Turkish Kurds and other minorities in this country are still pending recognition and protection of their heritage and their right to free expression. "

In the program we see the presence of Kendal NEZAN president of the Kurdish Institute of Paris. Dengir Mir Firat, MP, former Vice-President of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). Ahmet Turk, co-chairman of the Party for Democratic Society (DTP), ex-deputy of Mardin. Bayram BOZYEL, president of the Party of Right (HAKPAR).

I think Mr. Mir Dengir, grand son of Sheikh Said Efendi by voting with 75 deputies in parliament Kurdish Sunni colonialist Turkish AKP for the Army Aviation imperialist Turkish army bombarded the resistance to Southern Kurdistan, this action we is remembering the bombing of Turkish aviation has launched 750 bombs on the civilian population during 350 hours. Hopes for peace in the Kurdish national independence without a completely united is an illusion that represented by the drawing of Picasso.



We believe that for over a century we are at war against the Ottoman Empire and cons of Turkey founded in 1923 by a military coup replaced by a republic dictatorship over the worst of the constitutional monarchy. Everyone can define these terms of peace and war according to his own philosophy. For example, Hobbes speaks of the war of all against all in a state of nature. For Rousseau, however, war is not a relation of man to man, but from state to state. Then there is the interpretation of Clausewitz, which lasted for two centuries: the war is the continuation of politics by other means. If diplomacy does not work, then it gives way to war.

But several questions demonstrate the complexity of the definition of war: the war presupposes a minimum of conflict. But then, is it a conflict with the traditional use of physical violence or should we talk about psychological warfare, war doctrines or economic warfare? Should we talk about war between collective entities (tribes, cities, states), war between individuals, internal war in the individual (war between passion and reason)?

Just for peace, the minimum corresponds to the absence of war (negative peace, as opposed to a positive peace which is order and justice). However, during the period between 1945 and 1989, the historical reality escapes these definitions: we tried hard to find words evoking the Cold War, some saying the hot peace, peace bellicose, etc..

Another example for conclusion: one can speak today of the war against terrorism? If there is no war, conflict, clash between civilizations, the boundaries between war and peace tend to disappear ... There is not total peace or total war, but a kind of mixture of both. Researchers have not yet found a consensus definition and the problem of definition is part of the debate itself. The definitions are rational and methodical as ever more difficult to deliver. To conclude with the cries of the Greek writer Agathon Bougiclis Call friends of the Hellenes "dated 1866, it is reasonable that the Kurdish politicians listen to his message history.

Agathon Bougiclis said:

"Candie continues to suffer martyrdom; hoardings Muslim drink long lines of Christian blood, and the nineteenth century frighten future generations of the table they will believe faithful as he is hideous! As for us who live us who die of the Cross of Liberty, which we draw from the Gospel of Independence, Solidarity and the pity we feel sorry that even if the Turks fell under the blows of the executioners; as ferocious as themselves, are redoubling efforts to charity, and perseverance. Candie is in danger, but throughout Greece slave is not in the confines of this heroic city, all the brave are not buried under the ruins of these barbarous murderers, all the ministers of God have not been free to flames: they

remain citizens to protest and arms to fight. There are still votes to invoke devout Jehovah "

Bougiclis called "Friends of the Greek slave, make no mistake .On seeks to shake your zeal, not to in front and straightforward, but with art and false reports. We assumed the defeated, we invented defections. It lends victories at Mustapha Pasha, driver barbarian hordes, do not be surprised, walk again without listening to vain deceptions. These stories would they be true, walk a harder line. As long as it remains a cross East humiliated slaves and citizens, you have a sacred duty to perform, you owe it to noble debris. "

"Wealth" said Agathon "spreading property developments around them is entitled to our praise, but the poor citizen who has the sense of solidarity vis-à-vis the revolutionary Candia entitled to our respect; c is he shares his bread!

“And you representative of Western civilization, every day you admire Homer, Aristides, Socrates, Plato, Thucydides, Apaminodas Archimedes: want to see fathers abandon their children and for what? Are the Greeks of today are Christians? ... Is Muhammad is the legitimate ruler Xerxes? According Bougiclis "The Greeks will not remain slaves forever by conquering wild, outlaw nations. They are not rebels: they sound revolution, they resumed their arms, they avenge their martyred priests, dishonored their wives, their children perverted, because they ask the Turks for their intolerable tyranny, and four centuries of 'horrible suffering; "The Turkish Empire carries with it the seeds of death he was struck in the heart. His place was parked in Asia: he threw himself in Europe, Europe has been fatal / He will struggle for some time to be lost in primitive lair, his last moments are the death throes of a ferocious beast. "

On Turkey and the duty of the West; Bougiclis said "After the settlement of Italian affairs, we believe very helpful to take a retrospective look, and make sure if the purpose of Congress in 1856 is achieved. We therefore call upon the protectors of Christian peoples of the East: Islamic fanaticism is it destroyed? Civilization she replaced the tyranny and oppression of the old regime? Unfortunately No. The Turkish government is condemned in the stream of progress, tantalizing, and the West to the punishment of Sisyphus.

On behalf of duty on behalf of suffering, anguish and tears of misfortune Christians of the East we believe necessary to protest again and again report to the rulers and public opinion of Europe in the compatibility of the Muslim race with ideas of civilizational nineteenth century

. Bougiclis raises the question, "Should we wait for new disasters occur? Is that horrible and terrible tragedies that recur and repeat themselves every day are not enough to illuminate and sages of the West? Thousands find evidence that

Turkey is unable to meet, and if, instead of preventing you resign to wait, you have the pain of violence inadvertently assist the fanatical clergy who works ceaselessly to precipitate Muslim populations in new and irreparable misfortunes. "

"If Turkey is today, it is by the intervention and assistance of European powers, they may therefore require condemn and expose the hypocrisy of the Tanzimat and hattihoumayoum and a sovereign and civilizing action may take action decisive save to move East and Turkey to Europe by other hands. It is essential that this anomaly continues revolting and that justice is proclaimed sovereign of mankind. "

Finally, the dignity of Europe requires the intervention and reorganization, the dignity of Europe requires that no one under any circumstances, can bring to the future, affect the freedom to life and property of its similar. Let this sacred goal is reached, and since it is shown, for four centuries, in a peremptory and irrevocable, and that its appearance in these parts was the signal of disruption, devastation and tyranny over the execrable to remove gangrene and save life instead of death. "

**Freedom for all political prisoners in Turkey and North Kurdistan!**

**Turkey and the Turkish armed forces outside of Kurdistan**

**Dr. Ali Kilic Paris February 22, 2010**